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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-08	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/027W
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O 011444Z JUN 95
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9948
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10915

E.O. 12356: DECL: MAY 24, 2005
TAGS: PREL, CG, RW, UG, GM
SUBJECT: MOBUTU AND MUSEVENI MEET IN GERMANY; DISCUSS
PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OF RWANDAN REFUGEES

REF: (A) KINSHASA 3081; (B) BONN 10578
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1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT. UNCLASSIFIED

2. SUMMARY. ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MET IN THE GERMAN STATE OF RHINELAND-PALATINATE AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION THAT DESCRIBES ITSELF AS THE GERMAN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP. THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT SOME PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OF RWANDAN REFUGEES WITHIN THEIR COUNTRIES SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT INDICATED THAT INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESETTLEMENT COSTS IS LIKELY TO BE NECESSARY. MOBUTU ALSO ACCEPTED MUSEVENI'S INVITATION FOR A STATE VISIT TO UGANDA IN JULY. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS SENSITIVE ABOUT MOBUTU'S PRESENCE IN THE FRG AND KEPT THE EVENT QUIET. END SUMMARY.

3. ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS, ATTENDED A CONFERENCE MAY 29-30 IN BAD KREUZNACH. THE EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (VEREINIGUNG FÜR VOELKERVERSTAENDIGUNG), THE GERMAN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP. THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER WERE INVITED, BUT DECLINED TO ATTEND. ALTHOUGH THE EVENT WAS NOT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY INFORMED AND APPROVED ISSUANCE OF THE VISAS FOR MOBUTU'S ENTOURAGE.

4. RUDOLF DECKER, THE ASSOCIATION'S FOUNDER, IS CURRENTLY TRAVELING WITH MUSEVENI IN GERMANY (MOBUTU DEPARTED THE FRG AFTER THE MEETING), BUT HANS STERCKEN, A FORMER BUNDESTAG MEMBER WHO IS ACTIVE IN THE ASSOCIATION, TOLD US MOBUTU AND MUSEVENI MET ALONE IN SEVERAL CLOSED DOOR SESSIONS. WITHOUT
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THE RWANDANS, MANY REGIONAL ISSUES COULD NOT BE FULLY ADDRESSED. BUT THE TWO PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED THE FEASIBILITY OF PERMANENTLY RESETTLING RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND AGREED THAT SOME RESETTLEMENT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. MOBUTU, IN PARTICULAR, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN PAYING FOR THE COSTS OF RESETTLEMENT. THE TWO LEADERS REPORTEDLY DEVELOPED A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP OVER THE TWO-DAY PERIOD, WHICH CONCLUDED WITH MOBUTU'S ACCEPTANCE OF MUSEVENI'S INVITATION FOR A STATE VISIT TO UGANDA IN JULY.

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5. AFTER THE CONFERENCE, MOBUTU AND MUSEVANDI ISSUED A JOINT
PRESS STATEMENT THAT

-- CALLED ON RWANDA TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER CONFIDENCE-BUILDING
MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE RAPID AND VOLUNTARY RETURN OF THE
REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES;

-- APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO CARRY OUT ITS
MANDATE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND ASKED THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO GIVE THE TRIBUNAL ITS FULL SUPPORT; AND

-- CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BURUNDI TO TAKE
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO RESOLVE THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

6. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS SENSITIVE ABOUT MOBUTU'S PRESENCE
IN THE FRG AND KEPT THE EVENT QUIET. STATE GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE ADMITTED TO US THAT THEY
FALSELY DISCLAIMED ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONFERENCE IN AN
EFFORT TO CONTAIN PUBLICITY UNTIL AFTER THE EVENT. ACCORDING

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TO STERCKEN, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PUBLICITY AT ALL EXCEPT
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THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE
STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. SEVERAL STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE OR RELATED SOCIAL EVENTS IN AN
"UNOFFICIAL" CAPACITY, BUT NO ONE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
WAS THERE. THERE WAS LITTLE COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN PRESS.

7. STERCKEN TOLD US DECKER FIRST CONCEIVED OF THIS MEETING
LAST DECEMBER, WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT MOBUTU WOULD NOT
ATTEND THE JANUARY REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. MOBUTU AND
MUSEVENI HAD NEVER MET, AND DECKER THOUGHT THAT THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS COULD ADDRESS SOME OF THE REGION'S PROBLEMS MORE
EFFECTIVELY IF THEY HAD BETTER RELATIONS. MOBUTU AGREED TO
MEET MUSEVENI, AND RWANDAN LEADERS AS WELL, BUT INSISTED THAT
THE MEETING TAKE PLACE IN A NEUTRAL LOCATION "OUTSIDE AFRICA."
DECKER SELECTED RHINELAND-PALATINATE FOR THE MEETING BECAUSE
THE STATE IS THE "SISTER-STATE" OF RWANDA. ACCORDING TO
STERCKEN, DECKER DISCUSSED HIS PLANS FOR THE MEETING WITH UN
SYG BOUTROS GHALI.

8. THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING WAS FOUNDED
BY RUDOLF DECKER, TOGETHER WITH STERCKEN AND ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN
FORMER BUNDESTAG MEMBER, HANS-JOCHEN VOGEL. ALL THREE HAVE
BEEN ACTIVE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR SOME TIME, AND DECKER KNOWS
A NUMBER OF AFRICAN LEADERS. DECKER'S NEXT STEP WILL BE TO TRY
TO PULL KENYA INTO THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS. ALSO ON
THE ASSOCIATION'S AGENDA ARE MEDIATION EFFORTS IN SUDAN, WHERE
DECKER CLAIMS TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH REBEL LEADERS, AND A PEACE
INITIATIVE IN SOMALIA, POSSIBLY UNDER KENYAN AUSPICES.
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